

EIGHT NEW CHRYSOMELID BEETLES FROM THE WEST INDIES
(COLEOPTERA)

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The present paper is concerned with a miscellaneous lot of beetles from the West Indies that have been accumulating in the collection of the United States National Museum. There are also three sent from Jamaica by T. H. Farr and two other closely related ones sent me by John A. Wilcox, who had picked them out from the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

Chthoneis insularis (Harold)

(Fig. 7)

Exora insularis Harold, Col. Heft., vol. XIII, 1875, p. 93.

About 7 mm. in length, elongate oblong oval, somewhat shiny, finely punctate, dirty yellowish brown with three piceous elytral fasciae, the apical one not extending to lateral margin.

Head with interocular space about one-third width of head, occiput finely punctate, especially over frontal tubercles which are well marked, a short distinct carina down lower front; head dusky yellowish brown with piceous mouthparts. Antennae with the third joint shorter than fourth, the rest a little shorter and about equal, piceous, hairy. Prothorax almost twice as broad as long with rounded sides a broad tooth at apical angle and a smaller one at basal, surface a little humpy, finely and rather densely punctate, somewhat shiny and dirty yellowish brown. Scutellum dark. Elytra elongate, moderately convex, with traces of lateral costae, densely and distinctly punctate, a dirty yellowish brown with broad dark brown or piceous fasciae, the suture dark, a fascia before and one after the middle, and a smaller one near apex, the apical one not reaching margin. Body beneath and femora dirty yellowish brown, deeper on the breast, tibiae and tarsi deep brown. Anterior coxal cavities open, claws appendiculate. Length 6.2-7 mm.; width 3 mm.

Type.—Whereabouts unknown, collected in Cuba.

Remarks.—A single female specimen in the U.S. National Museum collection from Vista Alegre, Santiago, Cuba, collected 3 May 1940 by C. T. Ramsden, and two specimens sent me by J. A. Wilcox who picked them out of the collection at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, from Soledad, Cienfuegos Province, Cuba, collected on 28 November 1926 by P. J. Darlington Jr., correspond, as J. A. Wilcox has pointed out to me, with Harold's description of *Exora insularis*, described from Cuba. Wilcox does not believe that any of these that I have described under the genus *Chthoneis* really belong there, but to an undescribed genus from the West Indies that is endemic there.

Chthoneis ferruginea, n. sp.

(Fig. 9)

About 7 mm. in length, elongate oblong oval, shining, finely punctate, the head, prothorax, undersurface and femora yellowish brown, the elytra reddish brown, antennae, tibiae and tarsi piceous,

Head with interocular space half width of head, frontal tubercles a little swollen, occiput finely punctate, a row of coarse punctures on each side near eye; carina short, lower front short, head entirely yellowish brown. Antennae barely reaching the middle of the elytra, deep reddish brown almost piceous. Prothorax twice as broad as long, with rounded sides, finely and densely punctate, the surface a little humpy, rather flat. Scutellum yellowish brown. Elytra elongate, with faint costae, finely and moderately densely punctate, shining reddish brown, in the one specimen known faint traces of paler fasciae near the middle, possibly these only an irregular fading of color in that area. Body beneath entirely pale yellowish brown, femora yellowish brown, tibiae and tarsi deep brown or piceous, anterior coxal cavities open, claws appendiculate. Length 7 mm.; width 3.3 mm.

Type.—Female, Museum of Comparative Zoology Type No. 30404 from Port-au-Prince and vicinity, Haiti, collected 2 October 1934 by P. J. Darlington, Jr.

Remarks.—Only one specimen, female, is known, which J. A. Wilcox has sent me to describe after picking it out of the collection at the Museum of Comparative Zoology. In size and general coloration it is not unlike *C. insularis* (Harold) from Cuba. Whether the faint pale traces of fasciae on the elytra are merely irregular fading of color or are traces of real fasciae cannot be determined from one specimen alone.

Nyctiplanctus, new genus

(*νυκτίπλανκτος*—roaming by night.)

Slender beetles between 4 and 8 mm. in length, with antennae not as long as the body, with short broad prothorax and long elytra and long slender legs.

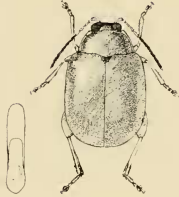
Elongate oblong oval, the head smoothly rounded over occiput, with well-marked frontal tubercles, a short, broad and rather flat carina between antennal sockets ending in a ridge extending on either side slantwise below the antennal sockets to beneath eyes; lower front short, eyes large, entire, with interocular space less than half width of head. Antennae not extending much below middle of elytra, third joint a little longer than second, fourth more than twice as long as third and longest, fifth a little shorter, the rest gradually diminishing a little in length. Prothorax about twice as broad as long at widest, widest anteriorly and with a broad tooth at anterior angle and a smaller one at basal angle; the sides curved inwards towards base; disk rather flat, with a faint trace of lateral humpiness. Elytra about four times as long as the prothorax, moderately convex, with a trace of costae, a narrow explanate margin, epipleura disappearing at apical curve. Body beneath with the anterior coxal cavities open, legs long and slender, neither the anterior tibiae nor the first tarsal joint in males noticeably enlarged, claws appendiculate.

Type of genus.—*Nyctiplanctus farri*, n. sp.

T. H. Farr, who has collected both species, writes that he found *N. jamaicensis* on *Cordia globosa*, which is also the food plant of *Chthonis insulana* Blake from Cuba, and feeding only at night. These two Jamaican species are closely related to the Cuban and Haitian species that I have described under the genus *Chthonis*. They are probably not of that genus but a closely related one that is endemic in the West



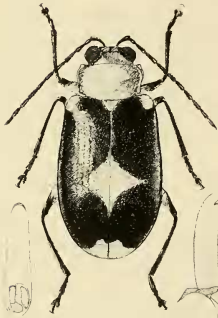
1. *Apraea jamaicensis*



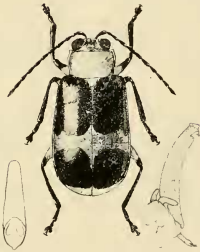
2. *Zierke fingerella darlingtoni*



3. *Apraea fulgens*



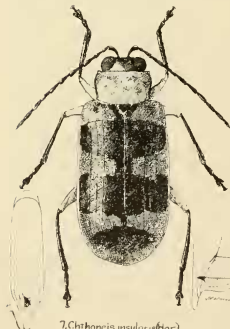
4. *Nyctiplanctus farrii*



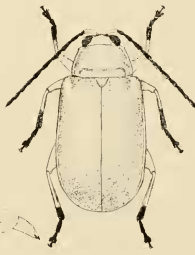
5. *Nyctiplanctus jamaicensis*



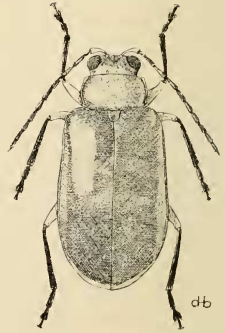
6. *Diabrotica hispaniolae*



7. *Chthonos insularis* (Star)



8. *Leotica grenadensis*



9. *Chthonos ferruginea*

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Indies. Whether they are all even congeneric is problematic. The two Jamaican species are stouter and more robust than the others and the aedeagi are somewhat different. John A. Wilcox has managed to inflate the internal sac and made drawings of these which he has sent me and which I am including in my plate together with the figure of an internal sac of *Chthoncis insularis* (Harold) which he also inflated. The species of *Nyctiplauctus* differ from species of *Chthoncis* from Central and South America in having shorter antennae and differently formed aedeagi.

***Nyctiplauctus jamaicensis*, n. sp.**

(Fig. 5)

Between 4 and 5 mm. in length, elongate oblong oval, somewhat shiny, finely punctate, the elytra with faint traces of costae in some specimens; a reddish brown fascia in lower half of dark piceous elytra, and the apex also reddish brown.

Head with interocular space less than half width of head, occiput smooth, nearly impunctate, a short median line above frontal tubercles, carina short, broad and flattish; yellowish brown. Antennae with third joint shorter than fourth, remainder subequal, hairy, piceous and not extending much below the middle of the elytra. Prothorax twice as broad as long, widest anteriorly, with rounded sides, a broad tooth at apical and a smaller one at basal angle, surface shining, finely punctate, yellowish brown. Scutellum yellowish brown. Elytra piceous with a reddish brown fascia slightly below the middle, shining, very finely punctate. Body beneath yellowish brown to dark brown, femora pale with the apex dark, tibiae and tarsi dark. Anterior coxal cavities open, claws appendiculate. Length 4-5.3 mm.; width 2-2.7 mm.

Types.—Male, and 10 paratypes, U.S.N.M. Type No. 65927, 12 paratypes in Institute of Jamaica, Kingston, Jamaica, collected at Trelawny, 3 miles south of Falmouth, 20 July 1960 by T. H. Farr, on *Cordia globosa*, feeding at night.

Remarks.—This species was collected on the same foodplant as *Chthoncis insulana* Blake of Cuba. It is somewhat similar in coloration although it has, unlike the Cuban species a pale fascia across the elytra.

***Nyctiplauctus farri*, n. sp.**

(Fig. 4)

Between 5 and 7.5 mm. in length, elongate oblong oval, shining, very finely punctate, the elytra faintly costate, reddish brown with piceous elytra, tibiae and tarsi, the elytra having a reddish brown spot on the humerus, a reddish brown band not extending to the margin below the middle, and the apex also reddish brown.

Head with interocular space a little less than half width of head, occiput smooth, shining, minutely punctate, a median line above the well marked frontal tubercles, carina short, broad and flattish, entirely reddish brown. Antennae with the third joint approximately half as long as the fourth, which is longest, the rest a little shorter and subequal, hairy, piceous, with the terminal joints tending to be brownish. Prothorax twice as broad as long, widest anteriorly, with rounded sides, a broad tooth at apical angle, and a smaller one at base, surface a little humpy,

finely punctate, shining, reddish or yellowish brown. Scutellum reddish or yellowish brown. Elytra shining, rather densely and finely punctate, with faint traces of costae, piceous with a reddish or yellowish brown spot on humerus, a pale fascia widest at suture below the middle and not reaching the lateral margin, and the apex pale. Body beneath entirely reddish or yellowish brown, femora pale with the apex dark, tibiae and tarsi dark. Anterior coxal cavities open, claws appendiculate. Length 5.3-7.5 mm.; width 2.7-3.5 mm.

Types.—Male and 4 paratypes U.S.N.M. Type No. 65928, 3 other paratypes in the Institute of Jamaica, Kingston, Jamaica, all but one collected at St. Thomas, Morant Bay Road, 14 miles east of Kingston on 20 Jan. and 12 March 1961. One collected at Clarendon, Portland Ridge, north side, on the 23 July 1958 by T. H. Farr, who beat them from dead palm fronds.

Remarks.—The beetles strongly resemble *N. jamaicensis* but are larger and have a little different elytral marking, with a spot on the humerus and a fascia that is wider at the suture and does not extend all the way across elytra. The aedeagus also is a little different. I take pleasure in naming this after its collector, Thomas H. Farr.

***Diabrotica hispaniolae*, n. sp.**

(Fig. 6)

Between 5 and 7 mm. in length, elongate oblong oval, shining, very finely punctate, black, with pale yellow prothorax, femora and basal joints of antennae, the elytra with a pale margin and part of the suture pale and three transverse pale elytral fasciae and a short pale median vitta at base of each elytron.

Head with interocular space about one-third width of head, eyes large, occiput smooth, impunctate, a median depression over frontal tubercles, a broad carina running down lower front; entirely black and shining. Antennae with first three basal joints yellowish brown, remainder dark brown, three terminal joints sometimes a little paler brown. Prothorax a little wider than long, with curved sides and flattish smooth disk, finely punctate, shining, pale yellow. Scutellum black. Elytra somewhat wider in apical half, smooth, very finely punctate, shining, deep brown or black with pale yellow margin and three pale yellow fasciae and a short pale vitta in the middle of base of each elytron. Body beneath piceous with pale femora, the tibiae and tarsi dark. Length 5.5-7 mm.; width 2.8-3.4 mm.

Type.—Male, and 4 paratypes U.S.N.M. Type No. 65929 from Valle del Rio, Province La Vega, Dominican Republic, collected 26 Dec. 1955 by J. Maldonado Capriles.

Other localities.—Dominican Republic: San Francisco Mts., collected in April 1915 by August Busek; Haiti: Port-au-Prince, Mariana, Sept. 26, 1924, Attelye, Oct. 21, 1925, Rio Friode, Jan. 28, 1925, all collected by W. A. Hoffman; Carrefour, May 1908, collected by Dr. M. Cameron.

Remarks.—The elytral color pattern of this species is similar to that of some species of *Cerotoma*, such as *C. atrofasciata* Jac. but the front of the head in the male is not excavate nor the male antennae modified as in *Cerotoma*. Dr. B. J. Selman has sent me two specimens of this from the British Museum with the note that it is an undescribed species.

Heikertingerella darlingtoni, n. sp.

(Fig. 2)

About 2 mm. in length, ovate, shiny, yellow brown, very finely punctate.

Head with interocular space less than half width of head, eyes large, front and occiput very finely punctate, carina short and knoblike, entirely brown except mouthparts which are darker. Antennae with the outer joints deeper brown. Prothorax entirely pale yellowish brown, shining, minutely and densely punctate. Scutellum, dark reddish brown. Elytra shining, yellow brown, minutely and rather densely punctate. Body beneath and legs yellow brown, hind tibiae grooved and with an outer tooth before the apex and a spur at apex. Length 2.4 mm.; width 1.5 mm.

Type.—Male, Museum of Comparative Zoology Type No. 30405 from Mt. Diego de Ocampo, Dominican Republic, 3-4000 ft. collected in July 1938 by P. J. Darlington, Jr.

Remarks.—Only one specimen of this small species of *Heikertingerella* is known. It is shorter and less distinctly punctate than *H. krugi* Weise or *H. minima* (Suffrian), and the aedeagus has a more rounded tip.

Lactica grenadensis, n. sp.

(Fig. 8)

About 5 mm. in length, oblong oval, shining, pale yellow with the antennae, except for the basal joint, black and black lower half of tibiae and tarsal joints.

Head with interocular space less than half width of head, occiput smooth, nearly impunctate, carina somewhat produced, lower front narrow, pale yellow with somewhat darker mouthparts. Antennae except for the pale basal joint entirely piceous, not extending to middle of the elytra. Prothorax with slightly curved sides, widest at base, a broad basal sulcus with limiting ends, pale yellow, shining, nearly impunctate. Scutellum pale. Elytra entirely pale yellow, shining, nearly impunctate; body beneath pale, lightly pubescent, the femora pale, the tibiae with the lower part, lower half in two anterior pairs, piceous, tarsal joints piceous. Length 5 mm.; width 2.7 mm.

Type.—Female, U.S.N.M. Type No. 65930 from Grenada, B.W.I., collected in 1936 by Sebastian Gates.

Remarks.—This strongly resembles all the other pale species of *Lactica* from the West Indies but differs slightly in coloration, having apical parts of the tibiae and all the tarsal joints dark. It is perhaps closest to *Lactica dominicae* Baly in which species only the tips of the tibiae are dark as well as the tarsal joints, but in *L. dominicae* the apex of the femora is dark.

Apraea jamaicensis, n. sp.

(Fig. 1)

About 3 mm. in length, oval, shining, the elytra rather irregularly striate punctate with costae between, piceous with a bronzy lustre, legs, antennae and under-surface yellowish brown.

Head with interocular space not one-third width of head, eyes large, antennal sockets closely set with a very short knob-like carina between, frontal tubercles

not well defined, occiput shining, finely punctate. Antennae with the third joint a little shorter than fourth, rest subequal, yellowish brown. Prothorax broad and somewhat convex, widest at base with the base sinuate over the scutellum, disk shining, rugosely punctate with groups of coarse punctures on sides anteriorly and in middle of base, between these rough places finer punctures. Scutellum small, shiny bronze. Elytra convex, costate with strong somewhat irregular striate punctation and scattered finer punctures, all this tending to produce a rugose surface, shining with a bronzy lustre. Undersurface shining, yellowish brown, hind tibiae with a short channel near apex and with a spur at end, tarsal joint of hind tibiae somewhat longer than in many species of *Apraea*. Length 3 mm.; width 1.8 mm.

Type.—Male, U.S.N.M. Type No. 65931 from St. Ann Parish, Dry Harbour, Jamaica, B.W.I., collected 14 July 1959 by T. H. Farr.

Remarks.—This species has the coloring of *A. pyritosa* (Suffrian) from Cuba, but has a much rougher surface with more irregular and coarser elytral punctation and costae. It is also more costate than *A. jansoni* Baly, also from Jamaica, and has a differently shaped aedeagus.

***Apraea fulgens*, n. sp.**

(Fig. 3)

About 3 mm. in length, oval, shining, the pronotum distinctly but not coarsely punctate in places with finer punctures intermixed, the elytra with small striate punctures and in the intervals finer punctures, deep brown with a bronzy lustre, antennae, legs and undersurface reddish brown.

Head with interocular space about one-third width of head, eyes very large, a depressed groove near them, the narrow front finely punctate, carina and lower front short; entirely deep brown. Antennae reddish brown. Prothorax widest at base, with the basal margin sinuate over the scutellum, covered with fine punctures with groups of larger punctures scattered on sides and along base, entirely brown with a bronze lustre. Scutellum brown. Elytra elongate, moderately convex, with a faint transverse depression about one-third the way down; ten rows of dense striate punctures with finer punctures scattered in the intervals between the striate punctures, the striate punctures not coarse but distinct, towards apex and on sides the intervals becoming a little costate; shining with a bronzy lustre. Body beneath and legs reddish brown, middle and hind tibiae sulcate, a short spur on hind ones, claws appendiculate. Length 3.1-3.5 mm.; width 1.7-1.9 mm.

Type.—Female, U.S.N.M. Type No. 65932 and one female paratype from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, R. J. Crew collector from the Wickham collection.

Remarks.—This Haitian species resembles *A. pyritosa* (Suffrian) from Cuba, *A. jamaicensis* Blake and *A. jansoni* Baly from Jamaica in being bronzy brown in color, but whereas *A. jamaicensis* is more rugose than *pyritosa*, this species is smoother with finer punctures than any of them.